



Lorraine Chaffer, Editor

The final GTA NSW bulletin for 2014 contains reports on the work of the Association during 2014. Reports include Geography's Big Week Out by Milton Brown who coordinated the event in both 2013 and 2014 as part of NSW's commitment to the Australian Geography Competition and follow up camp for winning members from each state. Milton recently received the Outstanding Professional Service Award from the Professional Teachers Council for his contribution to Geography education.

The President's report, by Susan Caldis, highlights a very busy and successful year in 2014 for GTANSW in which the association provided support for NSW teachers and students through activities such as the popular HSC review workshops, HSC student lectures, a regional mini conference in the Hunter Valley, and annual teachers' conference in Sydney.

The largely unknown meteotsunami is explained in a piece by Dr. Susan Bliss and makes interesting reading for teachers. A natural hazard caused by changing atmospheric conditions, meteotsunamis can be taught in the existing NSW Years 7–10 Geography Syllabus or the new NSW Geography Syllabus aligned to the *Australian Curriculum: Geography* to be introduced in the near future.

A collection of articles related to sustainability include a perspective from myself on progress in NSW schools from education about sustainability to education for sustainability, a process in which students are empowered to make decisions about matters and issues related to sustainability. Merewether High School's Green Day and a Cross Curriculum Sustainability Project run by Louise Swanson at Epping Boys High School form the content of the following articles.

I highly recommend teachers read **Sustainability in the Australian Curriculum: Geography** by Associate Professor Alaric Maude in Geographical Education the magazine of the Australian Geography Teachers Association at <http://www.agta.asn.au/Resources/GeographicalEducation/geoged-v27-2014.php>

NEXT EDITION

The next edition of the bulletin will contain a report on the Australian Geography Teachers' Conference held in Rotorua, New Zealand in January 2015. The conference, as well as pre and post conference tours, was attended by a number of NSW Geography teachers along with GTA NSW council members Susan Caldis, Nick Hutchinson, Grant Kleeman, Lorraine Chaffer and Louise Swanson. There will be reports from the four bursary winners whose expenses to attend the conference were paid by GTA NSW and links to exciting new resources for the current and upcoming NSW Geography syllabus.



NSW Geography teachers were among delegates visiting Hells Gate Geothermal Park at Rotorua.

Photo L Chaffer

The post conference delegates tour visited to Aoraki / Mount Cook National Park where they experienced the Tasman Glacier and encountered newly calved icebergs such as those seen in this image.



Photo. L Chaffer

GTA NSW PLANNED EVENTS 2015

Watch for flyers for each of these events throughout the year. Get in early so you do not miss out. Demand for places is increasing with accreditation and professional standards requirements.

For teachers

- HSC review – Sydney, Wollongong, Newcastle – February / March
- Dubbo Country Conference – Skill development for teachers new to Geography – March
- GTA NSW Annual Conference – Sustainability theme – August
- Journal – Four digital editions for GTA members

For students

- HSC Student lectures – June
- Arthur Phillip Fieldwork Awards – closing date November 29
- HSC Achievement awards for top 10 HSC results

Activities run by Australian Geography Teachers' Association for teachers and students Australia wide

- Australian Geography Competition for students
- Australian Curriculum Roadshow – various locations throughout each state including NSW
- Geographical Education Magazine
- Geographica Newsletter for AGTA members